Bosman is national counsel for APP Pharmaceuticals and Abraxis BioScience Inc. in hundreds of liability cases filed around the nation. At issue is the claim her clients’ local anesthetics used in pain pumps contributed to the development of a degenerative and devastating joint condition after surgery in hundreds of patients.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration now forces manufacturers to warn patients and doctors of the threat. After 2005, physicians stopped recommending the use of these anesthetics devices for post-surgery patients with localized pain around the shoulder. Still, plaintiffs lawyers are pushing a second attempt to consolidate hundreds of product cases under one federal judge for pretrial proceedings.

The cases raise a number of legal issues about a drug or medical company’s duty to monitor off-label use.

“You have local anesthetics that have been out for decades and used without problems that now are being put into medical devices and used off-label,” she says. “It gets to the heart of what’s been going on across the country with generic pre-emption.”

Bosman didn’t waste time honing her skills as a product liability attorney after graduating magna cum laude from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1999.

She joined the San Diego office of Gray Cary Ware & Friedenrich, where she was quickly pegged a rising star.

“Her presence in the courtroom and exploits to that good advantage for her clients,” says Don Rushing, a partner at Morrison & Foerster, who first worked with Bosman at Gray Cary and continues to collaborate with her on cases.

— Pat Broderick

Erin Bosman, 37
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